

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading Isaiah 25:6-10
The prophet shares his vision of a heavenly banquet to which all are invited.

Responsorial Psalm 22
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

Second Reading Philippians 4:12-14. 19-20
The joys of heaven outweigh whatever hardships we may be suffering now

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 22:1-14
Not everyone chooses to accept God's invitation; indeed, some are not yet ready.

Parish of Corpus Christi

Sacred Heart (Goldthorpe), Sacred Heart & St Helen (Hoyland) and St Michael & All Angels (Wombwell)



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Sunday 15th October 2023

Sunday Year A

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekday Cycle II

"How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?"

Service Times & Intentions

Saturday Vigil (St Michael`s)	14 Oct	5.30pm	Brian Barrett RIP
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	15 Oct	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday (St Helen`s))	15 Oct	11.00am	Phil Ward RIP
Tuesday (St Helen`s)	17 Oct	10.00am	Phil Ward RIP
Wednesday (St Michael`s)	18 Oct	10.00am	Shaun Barrett RIP
Thursday (St Helen`s))	19 Oct	10.00am	Sheila Anne Foody RIP
Friday (Sacred Heart)	20 Oct	10.00am	Bill and Christine Mays, illness
Saturday (St Michael`s)	21 Oct	10.00am	Holy Souls
Saturday Vigil (St Michael`s)	21 Oct	5.30pm	Josie and Tony Wood, 62 nd Wedding Anniversary
Sunday (Sacred Heart)	22 Oct	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday (St. Helen`s)	22 Oct	11.00am	Patrick James O`Donovan RIP

Divine Mercy Chaplet is at 3.00pm on Fridays at St. Michael's Church
The Sacrament of Reconciliation is always available upon request.
The Rosary is every **Wednesday** at 1.30pm in Sacred Heart, Goldthorpe
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Goldthorpe every Thursday 7.00-8.00pm

Cheering crowds have long lined the processional route of British royal weddings. Yet only a privileged elite are admitted into the ceremony. Such occasions are now televised worldwide. In 2011, an audience of thirty-six million people watched Prince William and Catherine Middleton exchange their wedding vows in a live broadcast from Westminster Abbey. Indeed, those watching at home enjoyed a better view than many who were there. Among the invited guests were plenty of titled people and heads of state. After all, Prince William was the late Queen's grandson and second-in-line to the throne. But there were other celebrities, too, such as David Beckham and Elton John. Mingling with the glitterati were faces few recognised: the Middleton family butcher, for example, their grocer, and the village postman.

Surprisingly, some people turned the invitation down. For some, it was understandable. The Canadian Prime Minister was in the middle of an election campaign, and the King of Spain was recovering from surgery. Japan had just suffered a tsunami, so the Crown Prince could not go; and the Irish rugby union captain was due to play in an important cup semi-final the next day. One person, however, made the excuse that it was too near his birthday – perhaps he could not find the right outfit.

Having "nothing to wear" was not always a problem. At the time of Jesus, it was customary for royal hosts to provide garments for their guests. In today's Gospel, Jesus tells a parable about a king who did just that. As it happened, everyone he invited to his son's wedding backed out at the last minute. They behaved violently towards the royal messengers who summoned them, which showed complete disrespect for the king. So the king abandoned his original guest list, and welcomed to the banquet only those who really wanted to be there.

Jesus told this parable at a politically volatile moment in Jewish history. The prophets had spoken of a Messiah who would one day come to establish God's reign, and many believed that this day was fast approaching. Religious leaders were looking forward to their place at the princely table described by Isaiah in today's first reading, laden with juicy food and rich wine. Yet when Jesus

summoned these people to celebrate with him, most of them just sneered. By refusing to acknowledge Jesus as a messenger from God, they were insulting his heavenly Father. Jesus' parable came as a solemn warning. If you are not willing to rejoice in my company, he was saying, then others will take your place. Notorious sinners were already to be seen eating and drinking with Jesus and his disciples, for Jesus was living in anticipation of that heaven on earth of which Isaiah spoke. Isaiah had described it as a banquet for *all* people. Jesus' scandalous table fellowship was exactly that, and it gave a powerful message. Everyone is welcome to share Christ's joy, both now and for eternity. What matters is how much you want it.

Christ will indeed return to claim his bride, the Church. That day need not be a distant dream. Just as Jesus enjoyed God's presence as a daily reality, so he taught his followers to live generously and joyously as though they were already in heaven. Each celebration of the Eucharist is a foretaste of that glorious marriage feast, a moment of deep communion with God and with one another. Of course, the rich spiritual nourishment of the Mass is not everyone's idea of a banquet. Isaiah knew that to desire God's presence, and feel comfortable with God's family, people need to change. He used poetic words to describe that transformation: we need, the prophet said, to be wrapped in God's own goodness. God offers to make us holy, or, to use Isaiah's words, to give us a garment of righteousness. Imagine, said Jesus at the end of his parable, trying to get into the heavenly banquet without one.

Many of us pray the Lord's Prayer, the prayer of Jesus, asking that God's kingdom might come on earth "as it is in heaven". Our heavenly Father longs to make it so, but we need to cooperate with that work of grace in allowing God to change us. We can start today by asking Jesus to adorn us with kindness, gentleness, patience and all the other fruits of his Spirit. After all, if we are going to be wearing that robe of righteousness for eternity, we'd better start trying it on for size.

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Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Olimpia Popovici, Msgr. Peter Kirkham, Ethel O'Connor, Julia Hill, Christine and Bill Mays, Marie Bray (nee Walsh), Percy Winterton, Kath Hardy, Carole Dyson, Bernadette Hoult, Michael Bennett, Janette Barber, Paddy McNicholas, David Hardy, Tess Lynch, Justin Phillip Collins, Hannah Prentiss, Pat Hermitage, Thomas Collins, Norma Marshall, Val Armstrong, Terry Mullins, Matthew Deakin, Margaret Booker, Michael Foy, Shirley Broadhead, Norah Preuss.

Requiescat in Pace

We pray for the repose of the soul of Christine Wall who died recently. Please keep her family and friends in your prayers.

CAFOD Family Fast Day Appeal Friday 6th October

Please return your envelopes as soon as you can. Envelopes for your donations are available in our churches. Please consider using the Gift Aid slip if you are a UK Taxpayer, thus enabling CAFOD to benefit further from your donations.

Little Bits of God

The donations collected during the visit of the stunning mosaic exhibition amounted to £360, towards Parish funds. Thank you all for your generosity.

Mission Sunday 22nd October – Second Collection

Please support Missio in helping missionaries to work alongside communities throughout the world that are poor or in need. Remember, if you have a Red Mission Box, now is the time to empty it. For more information, visit the website at missio.org.uk.

Bonus Ball - Goldthorpe and Hoyland

The winning number was 26. The winner in Goldthorpe was P O'Hanlon, winning the rollover of £50. The winner in Hoyland was P Tomlinson, winning £25.

Craft Group Animals and Dolls

The Corpus Christi Craft Group have been busy knitting beautiful animals and dolls to raise funds for the Parish. The animals are £20 and the dolls are £15 and can be adapted to your preferences or colours. Please ensure you order before the end of October if you want them as Christmas presents. There is an order list and also photos of some of the items at the back of church. For further information please contact Anne Barry at anniebarry83@gmail.com.

The Craft Group meet once a fortnight on Thursday morning in the Parish room at St Michael's from 10.00am until 12.30pm, the next meeting being on the 19th October. All are welcome, please feel free to come to knit, sew, crochet, learn new skills and enjoy a natter with a cup of tea or coffee.

Marist Pilgrimage - photographs

All of the 70 photos taken on the day are now available to view and download free on the website below.

<https://clientarea.keithosbornphotography.co.uk/?Action=VC&id=385627495>, and when prompted for the Access Code it is maristday.

Amanda Campbell can print them for you if required, at a small cost.

Winter Coats Appeal

The Salvation Army Goldthorpe are collecting children's and adults winter coats to give away to anyone who needs one as the weather gets colder. If you can help, please drop coats off at the Salvation Army, Straight Lane, Goldthorpe, on Monday or Friday mornings, but NOT into the Donations box outside the building. Thank you.

Autumn and the Harvest, 22nd October at Sacred Heart

Would it be possible for each parishioner to bring to Mass ONE vegetable or piece of fruit that could later be donated to a local food bank?

"BELONG retreat, Saturday 18th November, 10.00am-10.00pm,

St Vincent's Mission Hub in collaboration with Youth 2000, open to anyone aged 16-35.

This will be a day of fun, friendship and faith as we accept the Lord's invitation to BELONG in His kingdom and find hope, joy and peace through Him. Tickets available via the QR code on the poster or at www.youth2000.org/events/belongretreat. Tickets are limited, book early!